Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 December 2007

Current Nationwide

ELEVATED
Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For info click here

- According to the local CBS affiliate, an Amtrak train carrying more than 150 passengers struck the rear of a parked freight train on Chicago's South side Friday. The collision left the passenger train's engine atop the freighter's rear car, and resulted in at least six serious to critical injuries and a dozen lesser injuries. The cause of the accident was unknown Friday, and will be investigated by the NTSB, authorities said. (See item **14**)
- *NetworkWorld.com* reported on Friday the release of McAfee Avert Labs' annual Virtual Criminology report, which found that governments and allied groups are launching increasingly sophisticated cyber assaults on their enemies, targeting critical systems including electricity, air traffic control, financial markets and government computer networks. The report was developed with input from NATO, the FBI, the UK's organized crime agency and various groups and universities. (See item **29**)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − [http://www.esisac.com]

1. *November 30, Associated Press* – (National) **ConocoPhillips proposes Alaska pipeline.** ConocoPhillips said Friday it plans to develop a multibillion-dollar pipeline that would transport natural gas from Alaska to the lower 48 states and Canada. The oil exploration and production company said it is "prepared to make significant investments, without state matching funds, to advance this project." A ConocoPhillips spokesman said the company's best estimate for the entire project, including the pipeline

from Alaska's North Slope to Chicago, is between $25 billion and $42 billion. The pipeline would provide an important avenue for bringing Alaska's massive stores of natural gas to U.S. markets that rely on it for heating homes and other uses. It would move about 4 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113000653.html

2. *November 30, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Pipeline fire traced to pinhole leak.** An oil pipeline explosion near Clearbrook, Minnesota, that killed two workers and caused a spike in oil prices can be traced back to a pinhole leak first repaired three weeks ago, the company said. The fire was extinguished Thursday morning, and oil prices ended the day just slightly higher after it became clear that the Enbridge Energy pipeline would come back on line quickly. A spokesman for Enbridge said Friday that workers were trying to remove leaked oil from around the pipeline. Once that is done it can be repaired. He said the company still hoped to have the pipeline fixed within a few days, and that it was running at 80 percent of capacity in the meantime.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113000807.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *November 30, Pine Bluff Commercial* – (Arkansas; Texas) **Destruction of binary chemical weapons done.** The U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) has completed the final step in destroying the binary precursor chemicals DF and QL. QL, diisopropyl aminoethylmethyl phosphonite, and DF, methylphosphonic difluoride, were designed for use in binary chemical munitions. NSCMP, part of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, neutralized the chemicals last year at the Pine Bluff Arsenal and shipped the wastewater to a facility in Texas for final treatment and disposal. The wet air oxidation treatment was completed November 27.
Source: http://www.pbcommercial.com/articles/2007/11/30/news/news5.txt

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *November 30, Associated Press* – (Texas) **N.J. energy company to build nuclear plants in Texas.** An application by a New Jersey energy company to build two new nuclear plants in southeastern Texas was accepted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). NRG Energy Incorporated of Princeton says the application is the first the NRC has accepted in 29 years. NRG says its license application could be approved in time to start building in 2010 at the South Texas Project nuclear power station site, with the plants ready to operate in 2014 and 2015. The site is in Matagorda County, southwest of Houston. The NRC says the application was submitted in September. It is seeking more information and plans to establish a technical review schedule with public input. The plan calls for building two advanced boiling water

reactors, a type used in other countries.
Source: http://www.wnbc.com/news/14736709/detail.html?rss=ny&psp=news

5. *November 29, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Ohio) **NRC begins special inspection at Perry plant due to a scram and feedwater problems.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is conducting a special inspection at the Perry Nuclear Power Station in Ohio, to review the causes of a reactor scram (automatic shutdown) and problems with systems designed to supply and maintain appropriate water level in the reactor. On November 28, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company notified the NRC that the Perry Nuclear Power Station shut down automatically at 6:32 AM CST. The plant shut down safely and is currently in a stable shutdown condition. The cause of the scram has not yet been determined. Coincident with the scram, the plant experienced a loss of two turbine-driven feedwater pumps. The utility has not yet determined what caused the failure of the pumps.
Source: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2007/07-026.iii.html

6. *November 29, Platts* – (Illinois) **NRC to fine Exelon $65,000 for missing material at Dresden.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed that Exelon be fined $65,000 "for failure to properly implement its program for control and accounting of special nuclear materials at the Dresden Nuclear Station between 1959 and 2007," the agency said November 29. The SNM in question are two fuel pellets and 99 in-core detectors, totaling less than 1 gram of fuel material. Exelon told NRC in May that the materials, which were supposed to have been placed in the spent fuel pool in the 1970s, could not be located during an inspection this year. Exelon "has implemented corrective actions to make sure the accounting problems do not recur," NRC said.
Source:
http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7743744.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *November 30, Associated Press* – (National) **Marines to cut armored vehicle orders.** The Marines plan to buy fewer bomb-resistant vehicles than planned despite pressure from lawmakers. The Marine Corps' requirement for mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles would drop from the planned 3,700 to about 2,400. The Marines would not comment on the decision, but defense officials confirmed the cut. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has not been announced.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113000908.html

8. *November 30, Associated Press* – (National) **Ceradyne wins bulletproof vest contract.** The U.S. Army has given defense supplier Ceradyne Inc. a $107 million order to supply plates for bulletproof vests, Ceradyne said Friday. The plates, made from a ceramic compound, are inserted into the front and back of standard issue vests to increase protection. The company will deliver the plates to the Army's Aberdeen proving ground

in Maryland, where military technology is tested. The delivery is expected to run from January to May 2008. It forms part of an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract, which will allow the Army to purchase more bulletproof plates as it requires.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071130/ceradyne_contract.html?.v=1

9. *November 29, United Press International* – (National) **Raytheon wins $160M sonar contract.** Raytheon said Wednesday it has won a new $160 million sonar mine-detecting contract from the U.S. Navy. "The U.S. Navy has awarded Raytheon Company a $52 million contract for the low rate initial production of nine new AN/AQS-20A sonar mine detecting sets, spares and their accompanying kits," the company said in a statement. "The award represents the exercising of options under the Navy's existing AN/AQS-20A contract with Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems, bringing the total contract value to $191 million and increasing the total number of systems ordered to 20," the company said. "AN/AQS-20A, a key component of the U.S. Navy's organic mine countermeasures strategy, has been integrated into the MH-60S, MH-53E airborne mine countermeasures helicopter and the remote mine hunting system. It provides critical capabilities in support of mine-clearing operations in both deep-ocean and littoral waters by enabling the detection, classification and localization of bottom, close-tethered and volume mines," Raytheon said.
Source: http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Industry/Briefing/2007/11/29/raytheon_wins_160m_sonar_contract/5821/

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *November 30, Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter* – (Wisconsin) **Phone bank scam results in 'minimal losses'.** Bank First National had 'minimal losses' because of a phone scam that sent an estimated 80,000 calls to its customers asking for their financial information from Thanksgiving through Wednesday, bank officials said Thursday. The bank president said the "vast majority" of customers recognized the call as fraudulent and did not respond, thanks to the bank's earlier customer education campaign. About 20,000 of the 40,000 bogus calls made to their customers and non-customers on Thanksgiving were answered, said the bank computer support specialist. Officials said "few customers gave out their information. The same scammers made an additional 40,000 or more calls after Thanksgiving, including about 10,000 calls made on Wednesday night, the bank official said. The automated calls told recipients their accounts were suspended and asked the recipient to call a toll-free number to reinstate their account by providing credit and debit card information. The bank traced the calls to legitimate "phone blasting" businesses that use computer software to automatically call thousands of phone lines and play a recorded message. The scammers paid for the "phone blasting" service with stolen identities and paypal payment service account. The bank determined account funds were being withdrawn in Valencia, Spain. Bank officials said that at no time were their data processing systems compromised during the phone scam.

Source:
http://www.htrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071130/MAN0101/711300461/1358/MANnews

11. *November 30, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **State warns seniors against life insurance scam.** The state of Ohio is warning seniors about life insurance pitches that can be risky. The State Insurance director says older Ohioans should be cautious when considering life settlement arrangements called "STOLI" -- short for Stranger/Investor Originated Life Insurance. They may involve letting someone buy insurance on their life in exchange for an immediate lump sum payment. Or, people could be offered a life insurance policy for the sole purpose of selling it to a third-party, whether immediately or in the future. She said many of these arrangements are promoted through predatory sales practices and that a bill in the legislature would help protect consumers against such transactions.
Source: http://www.wdtn.com/Global/story.asp?S=7431938

12. *November 29, Union Tribune* – (California) **County residents warned of Internet-based scam.** In California, Riverside County residents were warned Thursday to be wary of an Internet-based scam targeting sellers on popular auction Web sites, such as eBay, Overstock.com, Autotrader.com and Craigslist. The scam surfaced several months ago and has snared dozens of people who live in the county, costing them tens of thousands of dollars, according to a Riverside County sheriff's official. He said perpetrators of the scheme, who are often based overseas, contact via e-mail sellers of cars, refrigerators, furniture and other large goods, offering to pay inflated sums for the products to secure them over any other bids. The scammer then sends a postal money order, cashier's check, or traveler's check via Federal Express or UPS – to avoid federal mail fraud laws – well in excess of the purchase price, telling the seller to remit a portion of the payment to help the supposed buyer cover shipping costs, said a sheriff's investigator. "The problem is, because these suspects are out of the country, we don't have jurisdiction," he said. "We can't get these victims their money back or restitution. Sometimes, it's not even against the law in these other countries to let these Internet scams go on."
Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/riverside/20071129-1540-internetscam.html

13. *November 29, KVUE TV Austin* – (Texas) **Phishing scam targets credit union members.** Credit union members are being warned by the Texas Attorney General's Office to be on alert for a phishing scheme involving spoof emails which are worded like warnings to credit union members. However, the phony email warnings use one key word that is a sure clue they are not legitimate. "They're calling credit union customers," said the president of Public Employees Credit Union. "Credit unions don't really have customers. They have members and owners. And we would never use that terminology." It is estimated there are 714,000 credit union members in Texas and 88 million nationwide. Through warnings posted on websites and in newsletters all are being advised to avoid phony emails.

Source: http://www.kvue.com/news/top/stories/112907kvuecreditunion-cb.4ffc5972.html

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Transportation Sector

14. *November 30, CBS2 Chicago & STNG Wire* – (Illinois) **Amtrak train smashes freighter on South Side.** Serious injuries were reported in a crash on Chicago's South Side involving an Amtrak train and a freight train. The Amtrak train struck the rear of the parked freight train, a fire department spokeswoman said. She said there were about 150 passengers on board and confirmed a report that a conductor was pinned inside. The Amtrak cars did not derail, but the locomotive of the Amtrak train was severely damaged. The train was headed into Chicago from Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Source: http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/freight.train.amtrak.2.599603.html

15. *November 30, Associated Press* – (National; International) **Oil spill fuels debate in ship industry.** The government, the International Maritime Organization and the shipping industry are exploring how to bring some order to the electronic navigation aids proliferating on the seas — a movement that has been given greater impetus by an accident in San Francisco Bay earlier this month. "An international standardization of bridge equipment like radars and electronic navigation equipment — to me, that would be the legislation I would like to see come out of this," said a San Francisco ship pilot. Some pilots, frustrated by the varying systems, have begun carrying their own laptops loaded with familiar charting software onto the ships, he said. Many proponents of this system argue that "technology may be getting out in front and changing faster than mariners can keep up with it," said the executive director and general counsel of the American Pilots' Association. The official also said that he does not believe pilots necessarily need such a system, because they receive such extensive training. Nevertheless, the pilots' association is studying the standard mode approach. "We think there's value" in this approach, he said.
Source:
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jsWTQ31SfPSc84VVw48CuKK6jlFgD8T7LQ401

16. *November 30, CBS 3 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Chemical spill closes roadway.** A truck leaking a corrosive chemical in the city's Port Richmond section closed the I-95 on and off-ramps at Allegheny Avenue. The spill happened along Allegheny Avenue under the Interstate 95 overpass prompting closure of the roadway and exit ramps. Authorities said the chemical is sodium hydroxide. Sodium hydroxide is a corrosive chemical also know as lye, caustic soda and sodium hydrate. Authorities said the roadway will remain closed while hazmat crews work to clear the scene.
Source: http://cbs3.com/local/Allegheny.Avenue.Chemical.2.599529.html

17. *November 29, CW31 Sacramento* – (California) **Confirmation about El Dorado pipe bomb scare.** While conducting routine maintenance, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) came across a device which looked like a pipe bomb. One lane of traffic was closed on Highway 50 in order for the El Dorado County Bomb Squad to

disarm and detonate the device. A Caltrans work crew found the device and called the California Highway Patrol. They believe that the device probably fell off of a vehicle.
Source: http://cbs13.com/local/el.dorado.pipe.2.599040.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *November 30, PigProgress.net* – (National) **USDA amends animal import regulations.** The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is to change the disease status of the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, adding them to the list of EU regions considered low risk for classical swine fever and free of swine vesicular disease. In addition, both Latvia and Lithuania will become regions considered free of Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) and Rinderpest or cattle plague. This change will result in fewer import restrictions on animals and animal products. Currently, no swine from any region infected by classical swine fever or swine vesicular disease, can be imported into the U.S. However, some cooked and cured products from affected regions are permitted. In the case of FMD, no ruimant imports or ruimant animals products are allowed entry into the US.
Source: http://www.pigprogress.net/news/id1602-37401/usda_amends_animal_import_regulations.html

19. *November 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Tainted pet food killed 200 dogs and cats: study.** U.S. health officials received thousands of complaints earlier this year about pets killed by contaminated pet food, but veterinarians said on Thursday they had been able to confirm just 224 deaths. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it received 17,000 complaints of related pet deaths, although it had confirmed just 16. A major recall was begun last March after ingredients imported from China were found to have contaminated some pet food. Previous media coverage had blamed 348 cases of pet illness on contaminated food. However, when strict criteria were applied, it appears that far fewer deaths could be blamed on the pet food.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071130/ap_on_re_us/pet_deaths;_ylt=AjgK0Wwn5S2qRfpzDtlnKwxG2ocA

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Water Sector

20. *November 30, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Gambrills family suit claims water fouled by dump.** An Anne Arundel County family has filed a lawsuit against Maryland's

largest power company, contending that a leaky coal-ash waste dump contaminated their neighborhood's drinking water. At a news conference yesterday in Gambrills, a family member said her husband died of kidney failure last year after drinking water laced with lead, arsenic and other pollutants. Five or six other people in the neighborhood also died of suspicious causes, she said. A claim filed yesterday in Baltimore Circuit Court seeks to represent dozens of local residents in a class action lawsuit that would make Constellation Energy pay unspecified damages for personal injuries and loss of property values. For 12 years until this fall, Constellation worked with a contractor to dump billions of tons of waste ash from its Brandon Shores coal-fired power plant into an unlined former gravel mine pit not far from the homes of the family bringing the suit and her neighbors. County tests found that 23 wells in the area tested positive for dangerous metals such as arsenic, cadmium and thallium, all components of waste ash from smokestacks, also called "fly ash." On October 1, the Maryland Department of the Environment imposed a $1 million fine on Constellation and a contractor.
Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.ash30nov30,0,5007161.story

21. *November 29, Republican –* (Massachusetts) **Water facility ready to pump.** After a long, last minute delay the Department of Public Works hopes to begin sending water out of Northampton's new treatment facility next week. The plant has faced delays due to a series of leaks at two lagoons designed to let organic matter settle. The city is under a consent order from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to improve its drinking water quality, which contains levels of trihalomethanes and haloascetic acids that are above state standards. Those compounds, which have been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals at high concentrations, are caused by the organic matter in the Mountain Street Reservoir in Williamsburg, one of Northampton's main water supplies. The new facility pumps the water through filters that remove much of the organic matter. The water that does not make it through the filters is directed to the two lagoons, where the material in it can eventually settle to the bottom. The city plans to drain the lagoons and remove the sediment on a regular basis.
Source: http://www.masslive.com/springfield/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-12/119632622418260.xml&coll=1

22. *November 29, IDG News Service* – (California) **Insider charged with hacking California canal system.** A former employee of a small California canal system has been charged with installing unauthorized software and damaging the computer used to divert water from the Sacramento River. The former electrical supervisor with Tehama Colusa Canal Authority (TCAA) in Willows, California, faces 10 years in prison on charges that he "intentionally caused damage without authorization to a protected computer," according to the November 15 indictment. He did this by installing unauthorized software on the TCAA's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, the indictment states. He accessed the system on or about August 15, according to the indictment. He is set to appear in federal court on December 4 to face charges of computer fraud. As an electrical supervisor with the authority, he was responsible for computer systems and is still listed as the contact for the organization's Web site. With a staff of 16, the TCAA operates two canals -- the Tehama Colusa Canal and the Corning Canal -- that provide water for agriculture in central California, near the

city of Chico. Both systems are owned by the federal government. The security of SCADA systems, which are used to control heavy machinery in industry, has become a hot-button topic in recent years. In September, video of an Idaho National Laboratory demonstration of a SCADA attack was aired on CNN, showing how a software bug could be exploited to destroy a power generator. It is not clear how much damage the attack on the Authority's SCADA system could have caused, but in 2000 a disgruntled former employee was able to access the SCADA system at Maroochy Water Services in Nambour, Australia, and spill raw sewage into waterways, hotel grounds and canals in the area. Even if an attack were to knock the TCAA's SCADA system offline, the canals could continue to operate, said an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, which is prosecuting the case. The intrusion cost the TCAA more than $5,000 in damages, she said.
Source: http://www.networkworld.com/news/2007/112907-insider-charged-with-hacking-california.html

23. *November 29, Bradford County Telegraph* – (Iowa) **Contaminated water scare possibly human error.** On the afternoon of November 15, residents in Lake Butler, Iowa, began receiving recorded messages from Union County Emergency Management that they were to begin boiling their water as a precaution. Word spread quickly through the city notifying residents that a bacteriological analysis of water samples obtained in the area showed possible contamination. What remains unclear whether the notice from the health department was meant for the entire city of Lake Butler or just the two roads where samples came back positive. As the notification went out to the entire city the schools were closed the following day. On Friday afternoon, the Union County Emergency Management office sent out notices to residents rescinding the boil water notice following a satisfactory completion of a new bacteriological survey showing the water was safe to drink. It is suspected that the contamination was likely human error as opposed to a danger in the water line itself. A look into how water samples were collected found that samples were being collected by a city sewage plant employee, where, for unknown reasons, the empty sample bottles were being stored for future testing. There was no way to know if water samples could have picked up contamination from the sewage plant that was inadvertently transferred to the collection bottles. To rule out human error, newer, safer methods were immediately used to collect yet a third water sample and a new laboratory was employed to conduct the testing. Those samples came back negative for contamination. In addition to stricter sanitary methods for water collection, there will be a debriefing with the office of Emergency Management on procedures of how they will handle a situation such as this in the future.
Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19070630&BRD=2150&PAG=461&dept_id=430589&rfi=6

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *November 30, Journal Record* – (Oklahoma; National) **Health officials prepare for possible flu outbreak.** Keeping Oklahoma's work force protected from the flu will

require the combined effort of state health officials, employers, pharmaceutical companies, schools and others, health officials said Thursday. The state's House Public Health Committee is considering an interim study proposed by state representative on what steps the state has taken to prepare for an influenza pandemic. Health officials are working to build a long-term system to support work force needs if an influenza outbreak reaches pandemic status. While the state has a stockpile of flu vaccines and treatments, an efficient communication and distribution system is essential to curtail the impact of serious illness in the state. Roughly 80 percent of Oklahoma's flu treatment stockpile is Tamiflu, while the remaining 20 percent is GlaxoSmithKline's Relenza inhaler, which the state has purchased at prices discounted by about 80 percent from the regular retail price in the U.S. So far, Oklahoma is the only state to score 10 out of 10 on a preparedness rating conducted by the Trust for America's Health Care, said the State Health Department's assistant chief of terrorism preparedness and response service. On the National level, Roche Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturers Tamiflu are seeing "a lot of corporate interest" in stockpiling Tamiflu. Certain businesses critical to the U.S. economy that cannot operate with large numbers of absences have contacted the manufacturer directly to build up their own private stockpiles of flu treatments, said a Roche spokesman. The company has recently seen increased interest from members of the financial industry and American Airlines. He added that the U.S. Department of Defense is 100 percent prepared for an influenza pandemic, and nearly 100 percent of workers at veterans' hospitals are protected from the flu. However, stockpiling vaccines can prove to be an expensive and exhaustive effort, as most treatments have a shelf life of just five years before they have to be replaced. Health officials also must gamble that the treatments will be effective on the particular strain of influenza that hits the populous. Additionally, Tamiflu is not a vaccine, but a treatment that prevents a virus from replicating and must be distributed to people who are ill within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.
Source: http://www.journalrecord.com/article.cfm?recid=84042

25. *November 29, Reuters* – (International) **New strain of Ebola kills 16, USDA says.** A new strain of the deadly Ebola virus has infected 51 people and killed 16 in an area of Uganda near the border with Democratic Republic of Congo, U.S. and Ugandan health officials said on Thursday. Genetic analysis of samples taken from some of the victims shows it is a previously unknown type of Ebola, said a doctor with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ugandan health officials have said that the virus appears to be unusually mild, but the CDC official said it is not yet clear whether this is the case, as experts need to check to see how many diagnosed patients are still alive. The head of Uganda's national hemorrhagic fever task force said: "From the beginning we've been isolating cases ... but we can't say it's contained. There may be other people in those villages unknown to us."
Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSL2990582220071129?sp=true

Government Facilities Sector

26. *November 29, Associated Press* – (Texas) **40 sick at Kilgore College in carbon**

monoxide leak. At least 40 students at Kilgore College in Texas required medical attention for apparent carbon monoxide poisoning linked to a heating system. Most of the ill students were treated and released, with one student spending the night hospitalized and discharged Thursday afternoon. The college spokesman said the carbon monoxide leak came from a faulty boiler in the equipment room on the first floor of a residence hall. Kilgore College officials are installing carbon monoxide monitors in buildings across campus and will upgrade the heating system.
Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5340316.html

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *November 29, Berkshire Eagle* – (Massachusetts) **EMTs better trained, difficult to keep.** The days of the part-time EMT who runs ambulance calls to earn extra money on nights and weekends are waning fast in paid ambulance companies. EMTs are now advancing to become paramedics, making careers of their emergency medical service work and earning wages of about $50,000 per year, with retirement benefits and paid vacation time, said an ambulance company president in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. "Our biggest competition is health care." He said his company has lost employees to careers in nursing, and one went on to become an emergency medical doctor who now works at Berkshire Medical Center. If not for the experienced employees being laid off by another local company, his firm "would be hard-pressed to absorb another 2,500 to 3,000 calls per year," he said.
Source: http://www.berkshireeagle.com/headlines/ci_7589525

28. *November 29, WFIE 14* – (Illinois) **Illinois voters set to decide fate of 911 call system.** The state of Illinois is second only to Missouri in having the nation's slowest emergency response time. 14 counties are still without enhanced 911 service. Voters in Wayne County will soon have a chance to change this with the Dewey Backstrom Initiative. The initiative is named after the 63-year-old, who called 911 twice in June with difficulty breathing but could not give dispatchers directions to his home. The call was misrouted and it ended up taking 28 minutes for an ambulance to get his home. By the time an ambulance arrived it was too late and he died. Wayne County has what is called pre-basic 911. Callers must be able to give directions to their location. If they can not, dispatchers have to try to figure out where they are. With enhanced 911, the location will come up on the screen so there will be no delay in sending help. Next year, there will be a referendum for voters to decide if they want to pay two dollars extra a month on their phone bills to pay for this $600,000 system. If it does pass in the February primary, the system will take up to three years to implement. Once it is complete, all 911 calls will go to Wayne County. Right now, cell phone calls go to the Illinois State Police post in Carmi and have to be rerouted.
Source: http://www.14wfie.com/Global/story.asp?S=7428762&nav=3w6o

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Information Technology

29. *November 30, Network World* – (International) **Government-sponsored cyberattacks on the rise, McAfee says.** Governments and allied groups worldwide are using the Internet to spy and launch cyberattacks on their enemies, targeting critical systems including electricity, air traffic control, financial markets and government computer networks, according to McAfee's annual report examining global cybersecurity. This year, China has been accused of launching attacks against the United States, India, Germany and Australia, but the Chinese are not alone: 120 countries including the United States are said to be launching Web espionage operations, according to McAfee's Virtual Criminology Report, issued Friday and developed with input from NATO, the FBI, the United Kingdom's Serious Organized Crime Agency, and various groups and universities. "Cyber assaults have become more sophisticated in their nature, designed to specifically slip under the radar of government cyber defenses," McAfee states. "Attacks have progressed from initial curiosity probes to well-funded and well-organized operations for political, military, economic and technical espionage." The Internet is simply a great tool for gathering intelligence, both for world powers like the United States and China and small countries with limited resources, says the security research and communications manager at McAfee Avert Labs. He doesn't think cyberattacks will replace conventional warfare, but says they are becoming an important augmentation, with countries using technology to spread disinformation and disrupt communications. He also predicts it will be common for governments to license cybercriminals to attack enemies in a sort of privatized model. "We're already starting to see that with state-sponsored malware," he says. McAfee said its research also found an increasing threat to banking and other online services, and "the emergence of a complex and sophisticated market for malware." See the McAfee report at: http://www.softmart.com/mcafee/docs/McAfee%20NA%20Virtual%20Criminology%20Report.pdf
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9050200&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

30. *November 30, IDG News Service* – (National) **Google asks for help finding malicious Web sites.** Google is asking everyday Web surfers to help with its efforts to stamp out malicious Web sites. The company has created an online form designed to make it easy for people to report sites they suspect of hosting malicious code. It's the latest step by Google to expand its database of the bad Web sites it knows about, as those sites continue to proliferate. **"**Currently, we know of hundreds of thousands of Web sites that attempt to infect people's computers with malware. Unfortunately, we also know that there are more malware sites out there," wrote a representative in the company's security blog. The simple form has an entry box for the Web site's URL and a space to provide additional information. Users also fill out a "captcha" to prevent software robots from reporting sites automatically. Google displays a warning in its search results if it believes a Web site is malicious. But earlier this week researchers noted that some Google searches for relatively mundane topics were producing results loaded with malicious sites, apparently the result of a campaign by hackers. Security vendor Sunbelt

Software said hackers appeared to be using various tricks to ensure their malicious sites appear high in Google's search results. Sunbelt said it turned up 27 different domains hosting malware, each with up to 1,499 malicious pages, or some 40,000 pages in total. Two days later the sites disappeared from the results, although Google would not say if it cleaned them out.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9050202&source=rss_news10

31. *November 30, Computerworld* – (National) **Second helping of FBI's Bot Roast serves eight.** The FBI on Thursday announced that eight individuals have been indicted, have pled guilty or have been sentenced to prison over the past few months for crimes related to botnet activity. In addition, it said that 13 search warrants were served in the U.S. and by overseas law enforcement authorities on individuals thought to be connected with botnet-related activities. Among those whose residences were searched was an individual in New Zealand, who uses the online username AKILL and is believed to be the leader of an international botnet coding group, according to the FBI's statement. All of the individuals were targeted as part of the FBI's ongoing Operation Bot Roast, first announced in June, under which the agency is conducting a coordinated domestic and international campaign to disrupt the activities of the so-called bot herders who operate the networks of hijacked computers. So far, the operation has uncovered more than $20 million in losses to consumers and businesses and more than 2 million infected PCs, according to the FBI.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9050178&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/.

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Communications Sector

32. *November 29, NetworkWorld.com* – (National) **Cisco confirms ability to eavesdrop on remote calls using its VoIP phones.** Cisco confirmed it is possible to eavesdrop on remote conversations using Cisco VoIP phones. In its security response, Cisco says: "an attacker with valid Extension Mobility authentication credentials could cause a Cisco Unified IP Phone configured to use the Extension Mobility feature to transmit or receive a Real-Time Transport Protocol (RTP) audio stream." Cisco adds that Extension Mobility authentication credentials are not tied to individual IP phones and that "any Extension Mobility account configured on an IP phone's Cisco Unified

Communications Manager/CallManager (CUCM) server can be used to perform an eavesdropping attack." The technique was described by a Telindus researcher at HACK.LU 2007 in Luxembourg in October. Cisco has published some workarounds to this problem in its security response. Also in October, two security experts at hacker conference ToorCon9 in San Diego hacked into their hotel's corporate network using a Cisco VoIP phone. The hackers said they were able to access the hotel's financial and corporate network and recorded other phone calls, according to a blog on Wired.com. The hackers used penetration tests propounded by a tool called VoIP Hopper, which mimics the Cisco data packets sent at three minute intervals and then trades a new Ethernet interface, getting the PC, which the hackers switched in place of the hotel phone, into the network running the VoIP, according to the blog post. The Avaya configuration is superior to Cisco, according to the hackers, because you have to send requests beyond a sniffer. Although it can be breached the same way, by replacing the phone with a PC.
Source: http://www.networkworld.com/news/2007/112907-cisco-voip-eavesdropping.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *November 30, WBZ TV Boston*– (New Hampshire) **Workers held hostage at Clinton office in N.H.** A man was holding at least two people hostage at the presidential campaign office for Senator Hillary Clinton in Rochester, New Hampshire, on Friday afternoon. He walked into the office with some sort of device strapped to him, claiming it was a bomb. State Police said the man released a mother and a child from the office, but was holding others. There were reports from the scene that the man was demanding to speak with Senator Clinton. Barack Obama and John Edwards' campaign offices were evacuated, as were several neighborhood businesses; a nearby school was under locked down. Police gathered at a nearby church and set up a command post there. SWAT teams and the State Police bomb squad were also on scene. As of 4:00 p.m. on Friday the situation remained unresolved.
Source: http://wbztv.com/topstories/local_story_334132330.html

34. *November 29, Reuters* – (Florida) **Miami terrorism trial draws to close.** A band of seven domestic terrorists tried to forge an alliance with al Qaeda to blow up Chicago's Sears Tower and overthrow the U.S. government, a federal prosecutor said on Thursday in closing arguments at a Miami terrorism trial. A defense attorney countered by telling jurors her client was not a terrorist but a victim of U.S. government "conmen," who scripted the alleged plot. The men were arrested in 2006 on charges of conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government and blow up the 110-story Sears Tower along with several FBI offices and the Miami federal court complex where they are being tried. Though federal agents said the men's plans were "aspirational rather than operational" at the time of their arrest and posed no real threat because they had neither al Qaeda contacts nor the means of carrying out attacks, they face up to 70 years in prison if convicted on all four conspiracy counts, nonetheless.
Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071129/us_nm/usa_plot_dc;_ylt=Ag.VpuZvtf6BI_cUXzW4k10WIr0F

35. *November 29, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Sam's Club evacuated.** A bomb scare at the Sam's Club in Albany, Georgia Thursday afternoon forced customers and all store employees to evacuate. At 4:30, managers say someone called in a bomb threat. Five minutes later, an employee found a suspicious box in the back of the store. A subsequent investigation by the Albany Police and the fire department found nothing dangerous.
Source: http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=7430282&nav=menu37_3

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *November 30, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Man held in string of blazes.** Authorities have arrested a man with a history of arson, alleging that he set a series of small blazes in northern Los Angeles County last month as firefighters were battling several massive brush fires. According to authorities, someone driving north on Lake Hughes Road in the Angeles National Forest set three fires using "an open flame" in the brush near the roadway about a mile south of the town of Lake Hughes. The arsonist then got back in his vehicle and drove to Pine Canyon Road before starting three more fires, sheriff's detectives said. Sheriff's arson investigators, working with special agents from the U.S. Forest Service, were dispatched to the three fire scenes. After examining them, investigators saw a pattern and consulted with the county registry of convicted arsonists to determine if any lived near the scenes. The suspect was identified as a "person of interest" and questioned. He is being held in lieu of $1-million bail. The Los Angeles County district attorney's office is reviewing the case to determine whether to file charges.
Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-arson30nov30,1,5366261.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california

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Dams Sector

37. *November 30, Voice of America* – (International) **U.S. warns largest dam in Iraq faces danger of collapsing.** Mosul dam in northwestern Iraq provides hydroelectric power to the country's third-largest city. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says Mosul dam should be shut down; calling it is the most dangerous dam in the world because of erosion problems. They warn that the wall of the dam holding back the Tigris River could collapse at any time. But the Iraqi government spokesman does not agree with the reports and says Mosul Dam is in good condition and not in danger. The manager of the dam says there is no cause for alarm, however he agrees that the three-kilometer structure has a major problem because it was built on top of gypsum, a mineral that dissolves in water. Over time water flowing over the gypsum is causing cracks and holes that are constantly being grouted with concrete material to prevent the dam from collapsing. The manager says this solution has worked since the dam was built more

than 20 years ago.
Source: http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-11-30-voa2.cfm

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282−9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us−cert.gov.

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